

ADMINISTRATORS AND SCHOOL BOARDS

Your Role on the Indoor Air Quality Action Team

Indoor Air Quality



Tools for Schools

An EPA economic analysis of repairs performed at an elementary school showed that if \$370 per year over 22 years (a total of \$8,140) had been spent on preventive maintenance, \$1.5 million in repairs could have been avoided.

— EPA Indoor Environments Division

A Healthy Indoor Environment is Essential for Your School(s)

Your staff and students deserve a healthy indoor environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Yet indoor levels of air pollutants may be 2-5 times higher, and occasionally 100 times higher, than outdoor levels. Poor indoor air quality (IAQ) can cause headaches, fatigue, sinus congestion, coughing, and sneezing; it can promote the spread of airborne infectious diseases. Indoor pollutants can be particularly harmful to students with allergies or asthma.

Failing to address poor indoor air quality can ...

- Result in an unfavorable learning environment for students, reduce the performance and effectiveness of teachers and staff, and increase absenteeism.
- Generate negative publicity damaging to the school's and administration's image and effectiveness.
- Strain relationships among parents, teachers, and the school administration.
- Create liability problems.
- Accelerate the deterioration and reduce the efficiency of the school's physical plant and equipment.

It costs less to prevent IAQ problems or correct potential problems now than it will to fix them later when they are more serious.

EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Kit Provides Guidance

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Kit provides common-sense guidance to help your school prevent and solve most indoor air quality problems with little cost and minimal effort from school staff. The highest levels of school administration must, however, be committed to indoor air quality and take the lead. This starts with identifying and empowering an IAQ Coordinator in each school or at the district level—often the facilities manager, principal, or vice principal—to organize your school's IAQ efforts.

Empower and be part of your school's IAQ Action Team. Draw on your contacts in the community to identify local business and community sponsors for your school's IAQ campaign. See the Community Sponsorship insert for more information.

**USE THE ENCLOSED CARD TO ORDER THE *INDOOR AIR QUALITY TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS* KIT TODAY
VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.epa.gov/iaq/schools**

INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS

Maintaining good indoor air quality in your school means:

- Controlling airborne pollutants
- Bringing in and distributing adequate outside air
- Controlling moisture and mold
- Maintaining acceptable temperature and humidity

Sources of pollutants in and around schools:

INDOOR SOURCES

- Students and staff with communicable diseases
- Classroom pets
- Excess moisture and mold
- Dry-erase markers and similar pens
- Dust and chalk
- Cleaning materials
- Personal care products
- Odors and volatile organic compounds from paint, caulk, adhesives
- Insects and other pests
- Odors from trash
- Radon

Potential high-pollution areas

- Science laboratories
- Vocational arts areas
- Copy/print areas
- Smoking lounges
- Food preparation areas

OUTDOOR SOURCES

- Pollen, dust, and fungal spores carried in from outside on shoes and clothing
- Vehicle emissions or unsanitary debris near building air intakes
- Pesticides used on school grounds
- Dumpster odors
- Leakage from underground storage tanks

The Issues

Indoor levels of air pollutants can be 2-5 times higher, and occasionally 100 times higher, than outdoor levels. Nearly 55 million people, 20 percent of the U.S. population, spend their days inside elementary and secondary schools. And according to a 1995 federal government report, an estimated 50 percent of the nation's schools have problems linked to poor indoor air quality. IAQ problems can cause discomfort and contribute to short- and long-term health problems for students and staff.

The Solution

IAQ problems can be much less expensive and time-consuming to prevent than fix. EPA's *IAQ Tools for Schools Kit* provides you with resources and checklists to help evaluate your school's indoor air quality and prevent IAQ problems. The Kit also offers easy-to-use steps for identifying and correcting current IAQ problems.

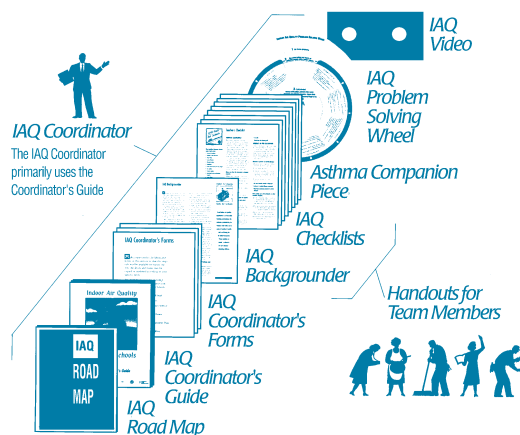
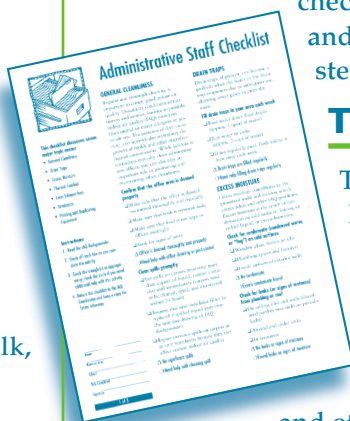
The Team

The awareness and effort of a team of individuals will help ensure that your school improves its indoor air quality. The checklists in the *IAQ Tools for Schools Kit* provide a thorough but simple means for all IAQ Action Team members to contribute, including the IAQ coordinator, administrators, teachers and staff, facility managers, health professionals, maintenance crews, and others.

The Rewards (in addition to good indoor air quality!)

By using the the Kit successfully, your school will have the opportunity to:

- Receive public recognition for outstanding environmental leadership through EPA's Awards Program.
- Serve as a role model or mentor to other schools.
- Work with EPA to communicate success through case studies.
- Have its website link on EPA's IAQ page for other schools to learn from your IAQ efforts.



Order the *IAQ Tools for Schools Kit* today!